



# Bay Area Genealogical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 891447  
Houston, TX 77289-1447

Volume 10, Issue No. 4

December 2010



*To You And Your Family,  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*



**Annual Holiday Party  
Members and guests  
enjoying food and  
friendship at the  
Hope Village Tea Room**



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**The regular  
general meetings  
resume in  
January 2011.**

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## Message from the President

Tina Medlin-Chatham



TINA  
MEDLIN-CHATHAM

It was great to see so many of you at the BAGS Holiday Party at Hope Village Tea Room. It was a fun time, good food, and even some shopping! Thanks to Kim Zrubek for again arranging such a great party for our organization.

My family Christmas party was this past weekend and one of my cousins had his mother's photo albums on display. It was great looking at old pictures and recalling memories of past holidays together. I love those times as it gives me more stories to document for my family history.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season with family and friends. And, that you find time to work in your genealogy while you are gathered with family to celebrate.

Tina



## Welcome New Members

Bob & Betty Wegner of Friendswood

*Be sure to extend a warm welcome  
to our newest BAGS members!*

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Bay Area Genealogical Society, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the people of Harris and Galveston counties, Texas, who have an interest in genealogy.

Articles on genealogy are welcome. Inclusion is based on space available and is subject to editing. Please include permissions with copyrighted material submissions.

Questions or comments on the BAGS Newsletter should be addressed to:

Editor, P.O. Box 891447, Houston, TX 77289-1447, or [newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org)

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## *In Memoriam*

BAGS Charter member, **Mary Jane Roth** passed away Friday, November 12, 2010. *Bay Area Citizen* published her obituary on November 15, 2010 and it is currently available [online](#). Our prayers go out to Frank Roth and his family.

**Rose Mary Fritz, Ph. D.** passed away Friday, November 19, 2010. *Houston Chronicle* published her obituary on November 24, 2010 and it is currently available [online](#). Our prayers go out to her children and their families.

### **To DNA Test Or Not That is the Question**

Interested in understanding the genealogical interpretation of Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA test results?

The December 2009 issue of the *Family Tree Magazine* published a good article titled "DNA Fact or Science Fiction" (page 26-32) by Lauren Gamber that debunks myths surrounding genetic testing and explains what useful information a genealogist can obtain from participating. This magazine is available at local libraries: Freeman Memorial, Clayton, Helen Hall (League City) and Friendswood. You can listen to a discussion about this article as well as a Q&A session with Dusty Rhoades, GeneTree Product Manager, on the most common questions about DNA services in the online November 2009 podcast by *Family Tree Magazine*. To access the podcast, go to [www.familytreemagazine.com/article/episode18](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/episode18) and click on "Listen to this episode."

Want to read details about DNA testing for genealogy research? Look for one of these books at your local library:

***Trace Your Roots with DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree*** by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak and Ann Turner, 2004

***The Genetic Strand: Exploring A Family History Through DNA*** by Edward Ball, 2007

***In Search of Our Roots: How 19 Extraordinary African Americans Reclaimed Their Past*** by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., 2009

### **Interested in Preserving Family Keepsakes?**

Published in *Family Tree Magazine* December 2009 issue pages 54-59, the article "PreservationRx" by Grace Dobush offers specific preservation instructions for newspapers, books, scrapbooks, photo albums, jewelry, dolls, toys, clothing quilts, needlework, and flags.

Conservation and restoration details can be found in the book ***Caring For Your Family Treasures: Heritage Preservation*** by Richard W. Long and Jane S. Long, published in 2000, available at local libraries: Harris County (Freeman), Houston Public (Clayton), League City (Helen Hall), and Friendswood.

"Getting Up to Date" by Maureen A. Taylor, published on pages 23-28 in the *Family Tree Magazine* issue November 2010, provides identification and preservation tips of different photograph formats from 1839 to present. A photograph's format (e.g. daguerreotype, ambrotypes, tintypes) identifies a specific time period when that photograph was created thus providing a genealogy clue to an ancestor's life.

**Want a better understanding of advancements in DNA research in other areas? Try the book**  
***The Genomics Age: How DNA Technology Is Transforming the Way We Live and Who We Are***  
**by Gina Smith, 2005.**

## BAGS Quarterly

*With the December 2010 issue, the BAGS Quarterly will begin its tenth year of publication. This latest issue will be available at the January meeting.*

*Make a New Year's resolution to write a piece of your family's history for publication in our Quarterly.*

## Archaic Medical Terms

Have you come across an unfamiliar medical condition listed as the cause of death in an ancestor's letter, death record, or obituary? Do you know the meaning of the archaic medical terms black tongue, la grippe, quinsy, St. Vitus' Dance, and vomito?

Try using the online resource **Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms** ([www.antiquusmorbus.com](http://www.antiquusmorbus.com)) to discover their meanings and help decipher the causes of death found on mortality lists, certificates of death and church death records from the 19th century and earlier. This resource provides a collection of old medical terms in English, French, German, and other European languages with corresponding modern English definitions and occasionally an image of the handwritten text. Click on the "International" button to access the other European language lists. A list of Native American or New World diseases can be accessed by clicking on the buttons "English" and then "American" located on the left side of the webpage. There is also special lists for treatments and miner's diseases. Some of the definitions include a brief citation. Click on the "Bibliography" button at the top of the webpage to locate the complete citation.

## Research Guidance

Are you new to genealogy, or maybe looking for a new angle, or just need some inspiration? Consider reading ***Who Do You Think You Are?: The Essential Guide To Tracing Your Family History*** by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, 2009. This is a companion guide to the NBC series designed to assist you in family research. The book includes preparation, online resources, how to use census and vital records, tracking down military and immigration documents, and the sleuth process. Mrs. Smolenyak, formerly chief family historian and spokesperson for [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com), co-founded [RootsTelevision.com](http://RootsTelevision.com) and [UnclaimedPersons.org](http://UnclaimedPersons.org) a volunteer group that assists coroners and medical examiners.

Use the ***Online Archive of American Folk Medicine*** database ([www.folkmed.ucla.edu](http://www.folkmed.ucla.edu)) to search for an ailment and discover the variety of homemade treatment methods used. Use the **advanced** search to specify the ailment as the "Condition" or select a "Region of Collection" (e.g. Western South for Texas, see the map) and browse the conditions. Some entries appear to be just plain silly. Click on the condition term to read the details on the belief and citation for that condition.

**Look closely at the physical characteristics of ancestors in family photos. Differences in hair, eyes, teeth or the mouth, hands, fingers, legs or feet can help identify health problems. "Pictures of Health" published on page 23 of the *Family Tree Magazine* December 2009 issue shows several photographic examples.**

## BAGS Events Calendar

BAGS meetings are held at University Baptist Church (UBC) located at 16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77059 (Clear Lake City) – [online map](#).

**Members welcome to all events.  
Public invited to visit general meetings.**

### **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** **No general meeting in December**

<b>Monday, January 24, 2011</b>	<b>6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 26, 2011</b>	<b>9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library</b>
<b>Friday, January 28, 2011</b>	<b>7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting</b> <b>Speaker: James Bevill, author of <i>The Paper Republic</i></b> Meet in the Great Room on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
<b>Wednesday, February 16, 2011</b>	<b>9:15 am BAGS Bus Trip to Clayton Library</b>
<b>Monday, February 21, 2011</b>	<b>6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210</b>
<b>Friday, February 25, 2011</b>	<b>7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting</b> <b>Speaker: Cary Hall presents “Wanted Dead or Alive, the parents of Eli Hugh Davis”</b> Meet in the Great Room on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
<b>Monday, March 21, 2011</b>	<b>6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210</b>
<b>Friday, March 25, 2011</b>	<b>7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting</b> <b>Speaker: Nick Cimino</b> Meet in the Great Room on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor at UBC <i>Arrive at 6:30 pm for coffee and socializing.</i>
<b>Monday, April 25, 2011</b>	<b>6:30 pm BAGS Board Meeting at UBC in room LC-210</b>
<b>Friday, April 29, 2011</b>	<b>7:00 pm BAGS General Meeting</b> <b>Program: <i>Annual BAGS Demolition Day: Breaking down your research “brick walls”</i></b>

## Committee News

### Bus Trips To Clayton Library Mary Martin, County Coordinator

Make a New Year's resolution to catch the bus to Clayton Library on one of the following dates:



**Wednesday, January 26, 2011 and  
Wednesday, February 16, 2011.**

We meet in front of the **Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center at 16511 Diana Lane ([online map](#))**. The county bus departs at **9:15 am** and leaves the Clayton Library at **3:00 pm** to arrive back at the Rec Center parking lot before **4:00 pm**. For lunch, bring a sack lunch, use the library's drink and snack machines, walk to the first floor deli at Park Plaza Medical building, or ride the bus to a nearby restaurant.

**If you have any questions or want to reserve seating, please call Mary Martin at 281-332-2435 or e-mail Mary at [lmartin497@aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com).** Sign-up sheets are also available at the general meetings. The BAGS website [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org) and the current newsletter always have a current listing of library trips.

If you have not been to the Clayton Library, consider going with our group and see what you can discover about your ancestors. We have several experienced genealogists who go on the bus and may be able to share some helpful ideas with you. The librarians are always available to help you get started finding your ancestors. There is also a packet of information the library provides to first time visitors which is very helpful.



Kim Zrubek and Melodey Hauch show off the writing awards given by the Texas State Genealogical Society to the *BAGS Newsletter and Quarterly*.

### Attendance Report Jeanine Lawrence



For November, 35 members and 1 guest attended the holiday party at Hope Village Tea Room. The board did not meet in November.

*Interested in serving as the  
Telephone Committee Chairperson?  
Contact Tina Medlin-Chatham*

### BAG\$ Report for November Bill Mayo, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,525.46
Income	\$310.00
Expenses	<u>-\$8.64</u>
Balance on hand 11/30/2010	\$3,826.82
CD Balance	\$6,277.93

## Free Genealogy Programs

The [Clayton Library](#) is offering free classes in January. Reservations are required. Call the library at 832-393-2600. The library is located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas 77004 ([online map](#)).

The library will be closed January 16 & 17 for Martin Luther King Day Observance.

### **Daughters of the American Revolution Day Saturday, January 22 from 10:30am to 4:30pm**

Ever wonder how to join the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)? Representatives from local DAR chapters will be at Clayton Library for consultation and research help in preparing lineage papers for submission to the DAR. Reservations are not required.

### **20th Century Military Research**

#### **Saturday, January 29 from 10:30am to 11:30am**

Explore how to find elusive military service records for your family members and why they are important to your research. This session will include on-line resources to assist you with finding documentation of your family member's patriotic service in the United States military from World War I through Vietnam. Although seating will be theater style (no tables set up), please feel free to bring your laptop to follow along with the web examples. However, personal laptop help will not be offered during this session.

### **War Dead Research from World War I through the Gulf War**

#### **Saturday, January 29 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm**

This presentation offers what files are available, what to ask for, and where to go to get information on your family members who have paid the ultimate price in the defense of our country. The class will assist you in finding the answers to many questions about the individual's death while in the military. Although seating will be theater style (no tables set up), please feel free to bring your laptop to follow along with the web examples. Personal laptop help will not be offered during the session.

## Land Deed & Tax Records

### **Monday, January 24 at 10:30am in the Friendswood Public Library ([online map](#))**

Nancy Royce from the Friendswood Family History Center will explain how to search, locate and understand the information in these records. Program is free and open to the public.

## Clear Lake Association of Senior Free Programs

These two programs are free and open to the public. Registration is required. For more information and RSVP, call 281-283-2019. See complete class and lecture series schedule online at [www.uhcl.edu/clasp](http://www.uhcl.edu/clasp).

### **“The Free State of Galveston” by Shelly Kelly, Archivist at UHCL**

Monday, January 10, 2011 from 9:30am to 11:00am in Melvin Knapp Center-Pearland, 2424 South Park Avenue, Pearland ([online map](#)).

### **“The Next Giant Leap: JSC’s Role in the Future of Spaceflight” by Mike Coat, Director of Johnson Space Center**

Thursday, January 20, 2011 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in University of Houston-Clear Lake Bayou Building, Garden Room 1510 ([online map](#)). No reservations required. Free parking is available in Lot R. For special accommodations or more information, call 281-283-2021.

## The Master Genealogist (TMG) Software Training Sessions

Jerry Woodman hosts these sessions on the 3rd Saturday of every month (except July and December) from 9:00 am to noon at the HAL-PC Headquarters, 4543 Post Oak Place Dr., Suite 200, Houston (in the Galleria area, [online map](#)). **The afternoon sessions scheduled at the Parker Williams Library have been cancelled.** These meetings offer a Q&A session along with a presentation on some aspect of TMG. The group meets as a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Houston Area League of PC Users (HAL-PC). HAL-PC membership is not required to attend the meetings, but encouraged since dues help defray expenses. For more information, contact Jerry by e-mail [woodmajh@hal-pc.org](mailto:woodmajh@hal-pc.org).

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# BAGS

*Bay Area Genealogical Society*



## REMINDER

No general meeting in December

Friday, January 28, 2011  
is the next general meeting.

Deadline for  
January Issue is  
Saturday, January 8, 2011